MINUTES
GRADUATE BOARD
September 11, 2017

PRESENT: M. Deibis, M. Finney, T. Hemphill, C. Kalisz (Guest for C. Creech), D. Lair, B. Maki, Schilling, S. Selig, S. Turner (Interim Associate Provost), J. Witt

ABSENT: C. Creech

1. Minutes from April 24, 2017 were approved with no changes.

2. T. Hemphill agreed to be chairperson for the 17-18 academic year.

3. MA in Social Sciences (MASS) Self Study Report for 6 Year Program Review

   ▪ The Board reviewed the MASS Self-Study report submitted in March 2017 and the external review report obtained in summer 17. The MASS program review was originally scheduled during the 16-17 academic year, but the Board did not have time to complete the review before the end of the year.

   ▪ The MASS program is an interdisciplinary graduate program in CAS that began in the fall of 2005. These departments and programs contribute to the MASS program: Economics, Political Science, History, Sociology, Anthropology, Africana Studies, International and Global Studies (IGS), and Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS). The MASS program offers three concentrations: Global Studies, US History and Politics, and Gender Studies. Students may also pursue an independently designed track as well.

   ▪ The MASS program was originally designed to provide professional development and content area knowledge for in-service teachers and other professionals in the local geographical region. Recent student surveys show that just under 50% of the current students are active teachers; the rest are divided among state employees, UM-Flint employees and a variety of other occupations.

   ▪ The Board reviewed enrollment numbers noting the enrollment decline identified in the self-study report, along with the current Fall 17 numbers.

   ▪ The Board reviewed the curriculum which consists of 10 courses of 3 credits each for a total of 30 credits. There are 5 required courses, 4 electives and 1 capstone course. Core courses are offered on a regular schedule, while the elective courses are scheduled by the departments outside of the control of the MASS program. Student feedback indicates that students are dissatisfied with the availability of elective courses.

   ▪ The Board acknowledged that the program is a ‘labor of love’ for the contributing faculty, and that student feedback indicates that students are satisfied with the academic experience, quality of the faculty and the academic rigor of the program.

   ▪ The Board identified the challenges faced by the program as the recruitment of new students and the relevancy of the program given its small size.

   ▪ Some possible suggestions for the program from the Board include:
Consider converting the program to an online program in order to expand the recruitment area.

Examine more closely the student feedback from the 2016 Graduate Student Survey or solicit feedback from current students to determine if changes can be made to the program and/or curriculum based on student feedback.

Consider the possibility of using stackable credentials for the program.

Determine if additional marketing plans can be utilized to increase enrollment.

- The Board is interested in obtaining feedback from CAS and the CAS Dean to determine the value of the program from their perspective.
- Program Director Lutzker will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Graduate Board to obtain more feedback about the MASS program.

4. Proposal for Master of Science, Physician Assistant (MSPA) Program

- The School of Health Professions & Studies (SHPS) proposes the creation of a new Master of Science, Physician Assistant (MSPA) program. The MSPA program would require 103 credit hours offered over 27 months. The program will target Michigan residents and will enroll a 40-student cohort initially with the plan to increase to 50 students over a three-year period.

- There are six existing Physician Assistant programs in Michigan, but there are none in the University of Michigan system. The Board discussed the computerized application system utilized by these programs and the competitive nature of the recruitment process.

- The proposal highlights the potential demand/shortage of PA’s across the nation, state and local area, along with needs assessment feedback from current students in the UM-Flint Pre-PA Club.

- The proposal also highlights its relevance to the missions of UM-Flint and SHPS, along with the UM-Flint strategic planning priority of “Recruitment through strong programs and campus life.”

- The Board was presented with some SON input on the proposal from C. Kalisz, but there was no discussion regarding the input at the meeting.

- The Board commends SHPS for presenting a solid proposal.

- The Board discussed the roles of the program director and the medical director.

- There was a discussion about the desire of SHPS to identify new clinical sites so as to reduce competition with NP clinical sites.

- Questions identified by the Board during its discussion include:
  - Provide an explanation of the variation of the total program length of 24 months versus 27 months.
  - Elaborate on the plan to secure space for PA program.
  - How will space be shared with SON?
  - Will a letter of support be obtained from SON?
  - Provide more information on the plan to secure start-up funds.
  - Discuss the plan to identify clinical sites that won’t compete with NP clinical sites.
• Dean Fry will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail.

5. Review Graduate Program Review Schedule for 2017-18
   • The Board reviewed the program review schedule for the current academic year.

6. Matters Arising
   • There were no matters arising.

Next meeting: 9/25/17 @ 2:00pm in the Graduate Programs Conference Room